

Amendment Dated December 19, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of issuing a ticket paid for with illegal payment means during a transaction between a user and a ticket vending machine ~~[[(10)]]~~, at the end of which transaction the machine ~~[[(10)]]~~ issues a ticket ~~[[(28R, 28M, 46R, 46M)]]~~ to the user in exchange for payment using payment means, the machine ~~[[(10)]]~~ including means for detecting illegal payment means, said method comprising the steps of: ~~and the method being of the type in which the transaction comprises in succession:~~

paying for a ticket by the user ~~a payment step (E2) during which the user pays for the ticket (28R, 28M, 46R, 46M) by using a payment means;~~

checking ~~a checking step (E3) during which the machine (10) checks that the payment means used are regular, by the machine;~~

~~if the payment means are checked as being regular, there follows a printing step (E4R) of printing the ticket, during which a regular ticket ~~[[(28R, 46R)]]~~ is printed on a blank ticket or medium; and~~

issuing the ticket to the user; and

~~thereafter the method includes an issuing step (E5) of issuing the ticket (28R, 46R) to the user; the method being characterized in that when if the payment means are checked as being illegal, the printed ticket ~~[[(28M, 46M)]]~~ is marked in such a manner as to enable the marked~~

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ticket [(28M, 46M)] to be distinguished from a regular ticket [(28R)] during an inspection operation.

2. (currently amended) A method according to [[the preceding]] claim 1, [[characterized in that]] wherein the ticket [(28M)] is marked in a manner that is immediately visible.

3. (currently amended) A method according to [[the preceding]] claim 2, [[characterized in that]] wherein the marked ticket [(28M)] includes at least one additional symbol [(40)] compared with a regular ticket [(28R)].

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2 [[or claim 3]], [[characterized in that]] wherein the marked ticket (28M) includes at least one symbol (42) fewer than a regular ticket (28R).

5. (currently amended) A method according to [[any one of]] claim[[s]] 2 [[to 4]], [[characterized in that]] wherein the marked ticket [(28M)] includes at least one symbol [(44)] that is modified compared with a regular ticket [(28R)].

6. (currently amended) A method according to [[any preceding]] claim 1, [[characterized in that]] wherein the marked ticket [(28M, 46M)] includes an invisible mark.

7. (currently amended) A method according to [[the preceding]] claim 6, [[characterized

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in that]] wherein the mark is made visible by prolonged exposure of the ticket to normal atmospheric or light conditions.

8. (currently amended) A method according to [[the preceding]] claim 7, of the type in which the ticket [[(46R, 46M)]] carries information stored in magnetic form, the method being characterized in that the marked ticket [[(46M)]] includes special magnetic information, and in that the inspection operator is performed by a ticket reader.

9. (currently amended) A vending machine [[(10)]] for implementing the method according to claim[[s]] 1 [[to 8]], [[characterized in that]] wherein it includes means for issuing a warning signal for the attention of a supervisor.

10. (currently amended) A ticket reader according to claim 8, [[characterized in that]] wherein it includes means for issuing a warning signal for the attention of a supervisor.